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○ ISSUE 41 | ○ VOLUME 5

# Community *notes*

## How Do We Restore the Chesapeake Bay?

The Earth Forum of Howard County hosts Dr. Beth McGee, the Senior Water Quality Scientist at the Chesapeake Bay



Foundation on Sunday, March 15, 2:00-4:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. Dr. McGee's presentation includes an overview of the science and policy surrounding efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay as well as describe the economic benefits of restoring the Bay. To find out more about

this free program for the community, visit [www.earthforumhc.org](http://www.earthforumhc.org).

## Classical Music Performance This Sunday

The Columbia Orchestra Piano Trio (Brenda Anna, violin; Nancy Smith, piano; and Jason Love, cello) performs Debussy's Piano Trio in G Major and Jennifer Higdon's Piano Trio on Sunday, March 15, 3:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church (6800 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia).



The program includes a performance by guest violist Robin Fay Massie-Pighee joins the Trio for Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor. Admission is free and seat reservations are not required.

## Greeting

This weekend and upcoming week are full of ways for you to participate in our community. Please share your ideas, skills and talents with your friends and neighbors.

*Many thanks*

## Free Events at Robinson Nature Center this Weekend

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks' Robinson Nature Center invites the community to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Anne Robinson who, along with her husband James, created the foundation that supports the Center and its mission.

The celebration kicks off the weekend of March 14 and 15 with complimentary admission, cupcakes, gift bags and more courtesy of the James & Anne Robinson Foundation. It continues from Wednesday, April 1 through Saturday, April 4 with a variety of events, such as live animal presentations, NatureSphere movies and guided nature walks down to Anne's garden. Event participation is free for the Center's annual pass holders or the cost of daily admission.



Robinson Nature Center is located at 6692 Cedar Lane in Columbia. Click [here](#) to find out more about the celebrations in March and for a schedule of activities occurring in early April, visit HCRP's [website](#).

## Film Showing & Event Recollections

The Village In Howard supports residents, age 55+, who choose to remain in their own homes by providing support, services and activities. The Village in Howard presents the film, "SELMA", on Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m. at Slayton House in Wilde Lake, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia.

This event is part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the second successful March in Selma, Alabama. The movie is preceded by recollections of local resident and Selma marcher Sherman Howell. Admission is \$6 at the door.

## HCLS "Dream Sessions"

Are you interested in assisting Howard County Library System (HCLS) chart its course for the future? If so, your input is important to HCLS as it develops an update for its Curriculum and Facilities Master Plans. They are conducting focus groups entitled "Dream Sessions" which provides an to convey what you like and what you would like about HCLS' curriculum and venues through a guided discussion.

Consider participating in any of the focus group outlined below:

### MONDAY, MARCH 16

#### For individuals 50 and better

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., HCLS Miller Branch

#### For homeschool parents and students

2:30 – 4:00 p.m., HCLS Miller Branch

#### For the general public

6:30 – 8:00 p.m., HCLS Central Branch

### TUESDAY, MARCH 17

#### For teens

4:00 – 5:30 p.m., HCLS East Columbia Branch

#### For the general public

6:30 – 8:00 p.m., HCLS Glenwood Branch

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

#### For parents with young children (infants through pre-K)

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., HCLS Miller Branch

To register, visit the [website](#). Refreshments to be provided and participants will receive a small gift as a token of gratitude.

## Spending Affordability Annual Report

Howard County Government's Spending Affordability Advisory Committee has issued its 2015 report which describes their comprehensive review of the County's budgeting and makes recommendations for fiscal years 2016-2020. Click [here](#) to obtain a copy of the 16-page report.

## The Importance of Being Earnest

The Chesapeake Shakespeare Company presents Oscar Wilde's witty play now through March 22. This comedy of manners highlights the mix-up when love is misdirected. Visit the [website](#) for tickets, parking info, reviews and much more!

## Spring Festival is Coming!

Tickets are on sale now for Columbia Festival of the Arts' first weekend festival!

The 2015 Spring Festival features an array of free and ticketed events including theatre and concert performances, readings, and visual arts activities.

**American Routes** runs April 16-19, and is a weekend full of intimate chamber performances in venues throughout greater Columbia. From full theatrical productions in Oliver's Carriage House, a stone and timber structure built in the 1830's, to wide-ranging

performances by renowned musicians, the artists of the



**American Routes** Festival are at the intersection of American traditions and the ever-evolving American journey. You'll find people and stories of our shared history, some whose roots began here and others whose routes have brought them to us.

Can't decide which events to attend? Our **All Access Pass** allows you to attend every performance Friday-Sunday. [Take a look at their diverse lineup](#) - they can't wait to find out which events excite you the most!

## A New Art Exhibit

To commemorate Youth Art Month, the Howard County Public School System and the Howard County Arts Council present *Personal Geographies – Maps as Art* in Gallery I of the Arts Center. This multi-media exhibit features hundreds of works by Howard County public school students in grades K–12 that investigate how maps inform and influence the way we see and navigate within the visual world.

In Gallery II, *No Boundaries* showcases vibrant and creative work by individuals with disabilities participating in art classes run by the Howard County Recreation and Parks' Department of Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services.

The exhibit is March 13 – April 24. A free opening reception takes place Thursday, March 19, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at HC Arts Center and includes a Summer Arts Camp Preview.

For more information on programs and events from the Howard County Arts Council, visit their [website](#).

## Reminders

### Money Matters Fair

MakingChange will host the Money Matters Fair on Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Long Reach High School (6101 Old Dobbin Road, Columbia). Registration is requested but not required at [MoneyMattersFair.EventBrite.com](http://MoneyMattersFair.EventBrite.com).

### Pedestrian Master Plan

The Howard County Office of Transportation invites the public to join them at two community meetings to gather input regarding improvements to the Pedestrian Master Plan, [WalkHoward](#). The plan will guide Howard County as we make a more walkable and sustainable community.

The meetings take place on Monday, March 16, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Slayton House in Wilde Lake Village Center, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia; and on Saturday, March 28, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel.

### Council Members to Visit Columbia Villages

Howard County Council members continue their visits to the villages of Columbia. The *Columbia Listening Tour* gives County Council members an opportunity to hear directly from village board members and residents in their own communities. The Council members are seeking input on New Town zoning, village center revitalization, and other local issues impacting the villages.

Wilde Lake: Monday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m.  
Harper's Choice: Tuesday, April 7 at 6:00 p.m.  
Owen Brown: Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m.  
Kings Contrivance: Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.  
Hickory Ridge: Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.  
Oakland Mills: Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.  
River Hill: Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.  
Long Reach: Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

### Bain Center Closed for Repairs

The Bain Center at 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia remains closed while damage caused by a burst water pipe is repaired. All scheduled activities at the Bain Center have been cancelled. All other Howard County senior centers are open and operating as normal. To find a senior center near you, visit the Department's Office on Aging [website](#). Check the Department's [Facebook page](#) for the latest information.

### Pre-submission Community Meeting

A pre-submission meeting is planned for certain parcels of land located at the corner of Broken Land Parkway and Little Patuxent Parkway in Downtown Columbia on March 26, 6:30 p.m. at Historic Oakland (5430 Vantage Point Road, Columbia). For more information, click [here](#).

## Register for the Appraisal Roadshow and Vendor Fair 2015

Do you have trash or treasure in your home? Harper's Choice Community Association will have a gemologist and a generalist appraiser on hand at Kahler Hall on Saturday, March 21, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to offer appraisals of up to two items per person. Items to consider bringing include jewelry, silver, coins, time pieces, furniture, glass, porcelain, paintings, bronze, toys, documents, and any other items (except stamps). For each item, the entire audience will learn what it is, what it's worth, and what they can do with it. You do not need to bring an item to come and enjoy the show. Click [here](#) for more information about the event!

[Register online](#) to have your item(s) appraised or to attend the show. Vendor and advertising opportunities are available. Click [here](#) to reserve a table or promote your business.

## IT Job Fair

The Office of Workforce Development's (OWD) focus is on meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in our local labor market. Their objective is to provide excellent customer service to anyone using their workforce development resources.

OWD along with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Workforce Exchange hosts an IT Job Fair on Wednesday, March 25, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at University of Maryland University College, 6865 Deerpath Road, Elkridge. Meet with some of the area's top firms seeking IT professionals. Registration is required; register [online](#) today!

## Save the Date... Soup'r Sundae

Mark your calendars for that annual soup extravaganza, [Soup'r Sundae](#), set for Sunday, March 22, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Wilde Lake High School. All the soup and bread and ice cream you can eat for \$20 per person, \$5 for children 12 and under.

Entertainment includes a DJ and activities for children; it's a great time for the entire family. Event proceeds benefit [Grassroots](#), Howard County's 24-hour crisis intervention center and homeless shelter.



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